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of a stipe near three-fourths of an inch long, on the top of which is a three-celled, obtusely triangular capsule. Each cell contains a pitted spherical seed, which is a little larger than that of white mustard. The covering of each seed consists of two equal halves, which unite and form a complete cell, except along the inner or central border. Here each half is joined to the neighboring cell in such a manner as to leave a deficiency, thus forming a central cavity which opens into each of the three cells. Passing up through this central cavity is the continuation of the stipe, which is triangular and membranaceous, and so shaped as to fill up the deficiencies where the two halves fail to unite, thus completing each of the three cells. It will thus be seen that the line of dehiscence is much shorter on the inner border of the cell than on the outer, and that the two valves do not touch one another at all at the central part of the inner line of dehiscence.

As the capsule ripens and the stipe assumes the erect position the green color gradually fades and the seams commence to separate. Suddenly all of the six valves contract upon themselves at the same time, thus completely detaching themselves and scattering the three seeds upward and outward. Quite a number of seeds were thrown on to a shelf which was ten inches higher than the top of the bouquet and nearly a foot away from it. The greatest distance which a seed was thrown was nine feet, measured by a line drawn direct from the flower to the spot where the seed struck the ground. The seed had traveled in an upward curve, and had probably made a journey of twelve feet. The sound which was produced at dehiscence was heard sixty-five feet away, in the open air, and nearly one hundred in a room. In looking over such botanical literature as I have at hand, I find that on page 20 of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE for 1880 Prof. W. C. White reports that E. E. White had observed a similar habit in *Euphorbia corollata* L., the report being loud enough to be heard across an ordinary room. J. SCHNECK, *Mt. Carmel, Ill.*

The A. A. A. S. Botanical Club at New York.—The Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S. held its first meeting for this year Thursday, August 11, in the law building of Columbia College. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. M. S. Bebb, the Club was called to order by the secretary, Mrs. E. G. Britton, and Mr. Thomas Morong was elected chairman for the present meeting. About fifty were in attendance, and although the absence of some of the most active members was noted with regret, the Club went promptly to work with its accustomed vigor.

The first paper was read by Dr. W. J. Beal, on "The Root stocks of *Leersia* and *Muhlenbergia*." This was followed by one on the "Dehiscence of the Sporangium of *Adiantum pedatum*," by Florence May Lyon, read in the author's absence by Prof. V. M. Spalding. Mrs. Britton then presented a list of plants of the vicinity of New York, collected by a committee of the Torrey Botanical Club, specimens of which were placed at the disposal of those present. The list includes a number that are of

special interest as regards their distribution, and others, such as *Cyperus Torreyi*, for example, are new species.

Dr. George Vasey presented a written statement setting forth the claims of the National Herbarium, and a committee was appointed to take the subject under consideration with reference to some action on the part of the Club.

Friday, August 12, about sixty were present. The Club was called to order by the chairman. The committee appointed Thursday was called upon to report through Dr. Vasey, but as the committee had had no formal meeting, and was not ready to report, it was agreed to appoint a committee to consider the subject further, and act in behalf of the Club. This committee as appointed by the chair consists of Messrs. Asa Gray, W. M. Canby, and W. J. Beal.

A communication from Prof. E. S. Bastin, of the Chicago College of Pharmacy, was read, suggesting the desirability of concerted action on the part of botanists, and division of labor with reference to problems still to be worked out.

A letter from Prof. D. S. Kellicott, of Buffalo, was read, raising inquiries concerning the crackling sound of *Utricularia vulgaris* when taken from the water. Mr. Day, of Buffalo, followed with a few remarks. Prof. C. E. Bessey sent his greetings to the club, with regrets at being obliged to be absent.

A paper was next read by Prof. E. W. Claypole on "Some of the secondary results of pollination," which was followed by rather animated discussions on the part of a number of members.

Mr. A. A. Crozier then brought up the subject of the definition of some common botanical words, and Dr. N. L. Britton called attention to three new species of *Cyperus* that had come to light since his revision of the North America species of that genus. Mrs. H. L. T. Wolcott exhibited a specimen of yellow-fruited choke cherry, from Massachusetts, near Boston.

Monday, August 15, the Club was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Morong, over fifty being present. Committees on resolutions and nominations were appointed, the former consisting of Messrs. Day, Canby and Crozier, the latter of Messrs. Beal and Britton, and Mrs. Wolcott. The chairman suggested the advisability of securing a special room for the Club next year, to avoid annoying interruptions caused by the same room being used by the biological section.

The first paper was read by Mr. W. M. Canby, on the recently discovered fruit of *Darbeya umbellulata*, a species first collected at Milledgeville, Ga., and described by Dr. Gray in *Silliman's Journal*, in 1846. The plant belongs to the Santalaceæ, and has been referred by Bentham and Hooker to *Buckleya*. There are some characters that indicate a very close relationship to *Comandra*, but the new specimens tend to confirm Dr. Gray's opinion, that it is distinct from either genus.

Mr. A. A. Crozier illustrated a method of drying plants by means of an oven constructed for the purpose.

A letter was read from W. F. Moffat with reference to the proposed location in Lincoln Park, Chicago, of a statue of Linnæus, an exact counterpart of the one recently erected at Stockholm. The estimated cost is \$30,000.

Mr. Morong introduced the subject of a national botanical exchange, on the plan of similar exchanges in Europe. A good deal of interest was manifested, and remarks were made by Messrs. Crozier, Beal, Britton, Fernow, Rusby and others. A committee consisting of Messrs. Vasey, Britton, Watson, Morong and Halsted was appointed with power to act for the Club, and report through the botanical magazines.

Mr. F. L. Scribner reported an interesting observation upon the ejection of the ascospores of *Physalospora Bidwellii*. Grapes affected with the black rot were gathered at Vineland, N. J., last year, and placed in a damp atmosphere, when after eighteen to forty-eight hours it was found that the ascospores had been ejected with some force and thrown against the walls of the chamber. Mr. Scribner also reported the spread of the black rot in France. The disease appeared there two years ago, and is now rapidly extending through the southwestern part of that country.

Tuesday, August 16. The nominating committee reported David F. Day as chairman, and Volney M. Spalding as secretary for the ensuing year. The committee on resolutions then reported resolutions expressing the great obligations of the Club to the members of the Torrey Botanical Club.

Prof. George Macloskie spoke of the hairs of watermelon seed as packed transversely, and when moistened extending and showing zigzag branching. Lists of the desiderata of the herbarium of the Department of Agriculture were distributed. Mrs. E. G. Britton spoke of the second blooming of *Wistaria* this year on Staten Island. The first flowers are seldom fertilized owing to the visits of the bumblebees, while the late flowers are visited in the normal way by another bee.

Mr. Morong asked if *Typha angustifolia* is always confined to the vicinity of the seashore, and *T. latifolia* inland. He invited observations on the distinguishing characters of these two species. He also asked for observations on *Sparganium*.

Mr. Sereno Watson said that *Arabis petræa* of the Manual must be dropped, as it is *Sisymbrium humile* Meyer (BOT. GAZETTE, xii. 200).

Mrs. M. L. Moody read a paper describing the discovery of *Epipactis latifolia* near Buffalo.

Mr. F. L. Scribner spoke of the remarkable abundance of *Cercospora viticola* at Fayetteville, N. C.

The Club then adjourned to meet next August at Cleveland.